

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

AN UNDESCRIBED SHREW OF THE GENUS *SOREX*.

BY CHARLES F. BATCHELDER.

On September 9, 1895, at Beede's, Essex county, New York, I obtained a Shrew unlike any species known to me. It was caught in one of several 'cyclone' traps, baited with rolled oatmeal, that were set among some large, angular rocks at the head of a wooded talus of loose rock. Just above, shading the spot and keeping it moist and cool, rise the low cliffs from whose fragments the talus has been formed.

Nearly a year later, on August 1, 1896, I caught a second specimen of this Shrew on Mount Marcy, the highest of the Adirondack Mountains. It, too, was caught with oatmeal in a 'cyclone' trap. It was taken in a crevice between some rocks, on the bare, open summit of the mountain, about 5300 feet above sea-level. The locality where the first one was captured is about eight miles distant, in an air line, and lies at an elevation of only 1300 feet above the sea.

I have compared this Shrew with other species of the genus *Sorex* (the material for comparison I owe in some cases to the unfailing kindness of Dr. C. Hart Merriam), and find it so different from them all that I am led to describe it as follows:

***Sorex macrurus* sp. nov.**

Type from Beede's [sometimes called Keene Heights], in the township of Keene, Essex county, New York; taken September 9, 1895. The type is a young adult male, No. 1384, collection of C. F. Batchelder.

General characters.—Size large; tail long; body stout.

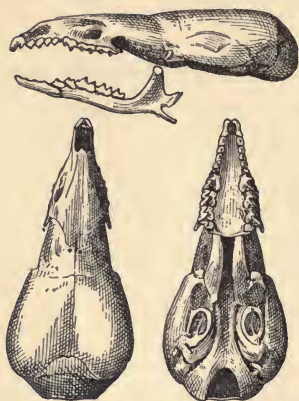


FIG. 26.—Skull of *Sorex macrurus* ♂
Type (× 2).

Cranial and dental characters.—Skull long and slender; brain-case low, narrow, and little inflated; rostrum long, narrow, and low; palate rather narrow. Posterior border of infraorbital foramen lying over a point considerably behind the interspace between the first and second molars. Unicuspidate teeth slender; the first and second about equal in size; the third and fourth smaller, and subequal—if anything, the third slightly shorter than the fourth. Molariform teeth deeply excavated posteriorly.

Measurements (of type, taken in the flesh).—Total length, 130 mm.; tail vertebræ, 60 mm.; hind foot, 15 mm.; fore foot, 8 mm.; height of ear, 10 mm. The Mount Marcy specimen measured: total length, 139 mm.; tail vertebræ, 61 mm.; hind foot, 15 mm.; ear, 10 mm. The extreme tip of its tail appears to have been lost by some accident.

This Shrew differs so widely from all others with which I am acquainted that comparisons with any other species are quite unnecessary. In color and size it bears a slight superficial resemblance to *Sorex fumeus* and to *S. trowbridgii*, but it is at once distinguishable from them by its long tail, even without reference to its cranial and dental characters, in which it is totally unlike these species. In the general shape of the skull there is a suggestion of *Sorex personatus*, but in this respect *macrurus* is even more remote from such species as *trowbridgii* or *fumeus* than is *personatus* itself.

Colors (of type, noted in the flesh).—Upper parts between 'slate-color'¹ and 'blackish slate';¹ under parts dark 'smoke gray'² or brownish 'mouse-gray';³ tail, above, browner than back; edge of lips and under side of tail, brownish flesh color; upper side of both hind and fore feet between 'fawn-color'⁴ and 'ecru drab.'⁴

The specimen from Mt. Marcy (♂, ad. Aug. 1, 1896, No. 1386, coll. C. F. B.) differs in color from the type only in having a slightly more plumbeous tint, a difference due, apparently, merely to its pelage having been exposed to several weeks less wear.

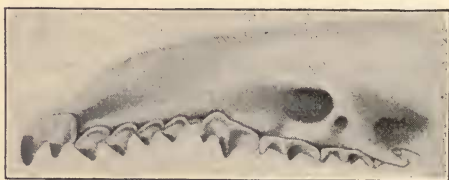


FIG. 27.—Left side of upper jaw showing teeth.
Type (× 6).

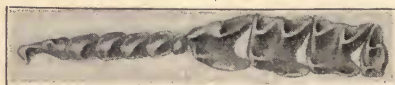


FIG. 28.—Same tooth row, seen from below.

¹ Ridgway: A nomenclature of colors for naturalists, etc., 1886, plate II, Figs. 4-3. ² Ibid., Fig. 12. ³ Ibid., Fig. 11. ⁴ Ibid., pl. III, Figs. 22-21.